

August 24, 2016

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Harbor Superfund Cleanup Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

RE: Comments on EPA Proposed Plan for Portland Harbor Superfund Site Cleanup

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today to express our concern over the proposed EPA plan for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site Cleanup and the potential adverse impact it may have on harbor businesses and the living wage jobs they provide.

I manage a program for Impact NW, a local non-profit, called Pathways to Manufacturing. We seek to connect hands-on orientated youth to jobs available within the manufacturing and skilled trade sectors – many of these jobs and companies are located in the Portland Harbor. Typically, these jobs offer living wage salaries, overtime, and career advancement and can be obtained by high school graduates, or those with 1 to 2 years of training at a local community college or apprenticeship program. Many of the high school youth we work with are not in position to attend a 4-year university; this makes harbor jobs one of the few pathways to a middle class life. Several of our students are now employed at harbor businesses where they make more than \$20/hour, receive full benefits and overtime.

We understand the need and difficulty in balancing public health, the environment and business. We encourage EPA to prioritize a cleanup that preserves the nearly 30,000 jobs in Portland's working harbor, jobs that provide young workers across the Portland region with an opportunity to obtain a living wage career.

Sincerely,

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Pathways to Manufacturing Program Manager
Impact NW

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OUR MISSION: To help people prosper through a community of support.